NO. 213

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BULLETIN
NOVEMBER 1978

NATIONAL MUSEUM
16 NOV 1978
OF VICTORIA

REGISTERED at the G.P.O., Hobart, for transmission by post as a periodical, Category B.

MEETINGS are held at the Tasmanian Environment Centre, corner of Bathurst and Criterion Streets, at 7.45 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of every month except December.

President: Mr. G. Van Munster, Hon. Sec.: Mr. J. Berry.

Club's address: G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, 7001.

AGENDA

NOVEMBER 16th (Thursday) Speaker: Mr. P. MacQuillan will talk on the insects of Tasmania.

NOVEMBER 18th (Saturday) Outing: Mr. P. MacQuillan will lead an outing to the Arve Valley to look for insects and other invertebrates. The Arve Valley is a few miles west of Geeveston. The outing will depart from the Prince Theatre at 9.00a.m.

DECEMBER: There will not be any Club outings or meetings this month.

JANUARY 18th (Thursday) 1979. Speaker: Dr. E. Williams, of the Tasmanian Geological Survey, will show slides and talk on the geology of Tasmania.

JANUARY 20th (Saturday) Outing to MT. Field National Park. Depart from the Prince Theatre at 9.00a.m. Please come prepared for a barbecue lunch.

PINE PLANTATION STUDY

A study is being conducted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Forestry Commission and the Department of the Environment to determine the regional effects of pine planting on the flora and fauna of an extended West Tamar region. The region is enclosed by the Tamar and Rubicon Rivers and the Bass Highway. Information from the study will be used during the planning of new state forest plantations to reduce any harmful effects on regional populations of native plants and animals. Available information on the occurrence and habitat of birds, other animals and plants in the West Tamar region will be collated. Members of the T.F.N.C. who have any information to contribute are asked to contact Mr. D. Rounsevell, National Parks and Wildlife Services, P.O. Box 210, Sandy Bay, 7005, or telephone 302543.

ADULT EDUCATION WEEKEND SCHOOL ON THE TASMAN PENINSULA

On November 17-19th (Friday 8.30p.m. to Sunday 3.00p.m.) a panel of tutors from the University Zoology Department will be running an informal introduction to the animals of the rocky seashore and their ecology. Family groups welcome. No previous knowledge of biology is needed but we will try to cover peoples special interests. We will collect animals on the shore at low tide and examine them indoors in the laboratory. Fee $10.00, married couples $16.00, full time students and pensioners $8.00.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Club President, Mr. Van Munster, the Hon. Sec. Mr. Berry and the Committee wish all T.F.N.C. Members a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

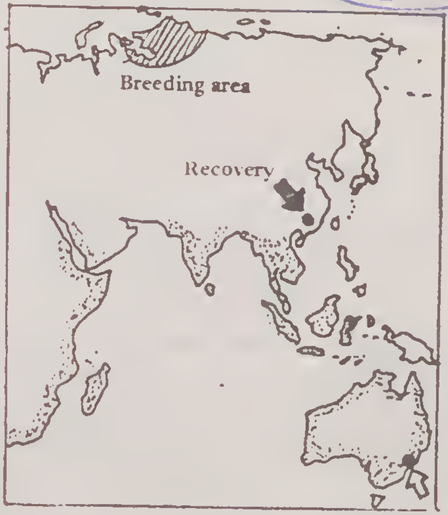
P.S. Don't forget to record any unusual holiday observations so that they may be reported at the January meeting or printed in the next Bulletin.

NATIONAL MUSEUM
16 NOV 1978
OF VICTORIA

CSIRO BAND RECOVERED IN CHINA

History was made in June when the CSIRO administered Australian Bird-Banding Scheme received its first bird band back from the People's Republic of China. The return of the band from a curlew sandpiper, Calidris ferruginea, may be a prelude to the recovery of more bands from China, which lies in the migratory path of a number of species in which the bird-banding scheme has an interest.

The recovery of band No.040-71148 from China has elated the scheme's Officer-in-Charge, Mr. David Purchase, and his colleagues from the Division of Wildlife Research at Gungahlin. Mr. Purchase has been waiting a long time for the opportunity to place a coloured pin, representing a band recovery, inside the blank area of China on his large wall map of the world.



The breakthrough for the bird-banding scheme came with the receipt at Gungahlin of a letter bearing a Chinese stamp and written in Chinese. Translated it was found to be from a worker named Wu Kuei-Ch'uan, a member of the No. 10 production team in a rural commune in Kuangtung Province, not far from Canton. Mr. Wu said the curlew sandpiper had been caught in the fields along with several others. It was seriously injured, and he had attempted to nurse it back to health after finding the band on its leg. However, despite his efforts it had died. The bird was recovered on 14 May 1978, about 15 months after being banded on Kooragang Island near Newcastle NSW by Mr. Frederick van Gessel.

Mr. van Gessel, who operates under the auspices of the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme, is undertaking a study of the curlew sandpipers and other palaearctic waders which visit the Newcastle area.
...The curlew sandpiper breeds in the Arctic regions of Siberia during the northern summer, and each autumn makes the long trip to southern latitudes to escape the bitter Siberian winter. During the northern winter it is found along the coasts of Africa, India, south-east Asia and Australia.

PUBLICITY UNEARTHS BABY "MONSTER"

First live specimen of new insect family - Publicity in a Brisbane newpaper has resulted in the discovery of a live specimen of the so-called "Cooloola Monster" The Monster, identified by CSIRO entomologist, Dr. David Rentz earlier this year as representing a new family in the insect order Orthoptera, created considerable excitement when the first specimen, an adult male, was discovered in Queensland coastal rainforest. It is the first addition at family level to the Orthoptera for more than a century. The second specimen was found by a ranger who was digging in sandy heath on Fraser Island, which is adjacent to the site where Monster No. 1 was found. His first spadeful of sandy soil uncovered a 1cm juvenile specimen of the Monster which, to his great credit, he recognised from the original CSIRO newspaper article despite differences in both size and appearance to the adult. The circumstances of the discovery lend weight to the theory that the creature lives an entirely subterranean existence, perhaps surfacing only during soil waterlogging. Buffalo-profiled and strikingly muscled, both juvenile, and adult Monster are superbly adapted for digging. From observations of the juvenile, they do not construct tunnels like their distant cricket relatives - instead they bore through the soil, allowing it to close behind them.

570.5
T13

- - - - - - - -